

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01
BIB-01 OIC-02 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 EB-08 /129 W
-----127566 061959Z /42

R 061810Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8191
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA

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NESCO

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: LEONARD MARKS MEETINGS WITH M'BOW AND
MAKAGIANSAR ON DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA
PRINCIPLES

1. ON MARCH 3, LEONARD MARKS, ACCOMPANIED BY AMB TORRES,
MET FOR LUNCH WITH DG M'BOW. MARKS PRESENTED US MEDIA
VIEWS ON DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS OR AGREEMENT
ON TEXT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO
ACHIEVE AND THAT RUINOUS DEBATE COULD BE AVOIDED ONLY BY
DECISION NOT TO SUBMIT A DRAFT TO THE 20TH GEN CONF.
ADOPTION EVEN OF MOST RECENT TEXT WOULD DAMAGE, PERHAPS
IRRETRIEVABLY, US RELATIONS WITH UNESCO. MARKS ALLOWED
THAT TIME MAY COME WHEN LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING ON ALL
SIDES PERMITS CONSENSUS ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES. IN
THE MEANTIME, APPROACH TAKEN, FOR EXAMPLE, BY WORLD
PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE TO ASSIST THIRD WORLD NATIONS
IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITIES, IS AN
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APPROPRIATE ROUTE TO FOLLOW. MARKS CONCLUDED THAT HE
ADDRESSING GROUP OF ABOUT 4,000 BROADCASTERS ON APRIL
13, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF PUBLISHERS ON MAY 3. HE WILL
REPORT THAT UNESCO ACTING RESPONSIBLY IN MASS
COMMUNICATIONS AREA, AND INCLUDE AN APPEAL NOT TO
CONDEMN UNESCO FOR ACTIONS OR DECISIONS NOT YET TAKEN.
MARKS WARMLY WELCOMED M'BOW'S PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US,

AND SAID HE ANXIOUS TO HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO MAKE
VISIT A SUCCESS.

2. M'BOW RESPONDED WITH REVIEW OF HIS OBLIGATION
(19TH GEN CONF DECISION) TO SEEK BROADEST CONSENSUS
POSSIBLE ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES, AND TO PRESENT
FINDINGS TO 20TH GEN CONF. HE EMPHASIZED THAT LATEST
DRAFT DECLARATION (DEC 20 TEXT) HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY
HIM, AND IS IN NO WAY AN OFFICIAL TEXT. THEREFORE, HE
SURPRISED AND CONCERNED THAT US HAD PRESENTED HIM WITH
AN OFFICIAL AIDE MEMOIRE CONCERNING TEXT WHICH DOES NOT
(OFFICIALLY) EXIST. IT FOR THIS REASON THAT HE HAD
DIRECTED MAKAGIANSAR TO SHARE THIS CONCERN WITH AMB
TORRES EARLIER THAT MORNING. (NOTE: MAKAGIANSAR ASKED
TO MEET WITH AMB TORRES SHORTLY BEFORE LUNCH TO DISCUSS
THIS ISSUE.) IN FACT, HE (M'BOW) ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO
REVIEW DRAFT TEXT, AFTER WHICH HE WILL MAKE DECISION ON
HOW TO PROCEED.

3. AMB TORRES TOLD M'BOW THAT AIDE MEMOIRE WAS OFFICIAL
US POLICY STATEMENT, REACTING TO DEC 20 DRAFT, AND
INTENDED TO APPRAISE HIM FULLY OF US VIEWS ON THE DRAFT
DECLARATION, WHETHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, AND
SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH US VIEWS THIS ISSUE. THEREBY
THE DG WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE US POSITION FULLY INTO
ACCOUNT WHEN MAKING HIS DECISION. M'BOW SAID HE WOULD
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HAVE PREFERRED AN ORAL BRIEFING, BUT THAT HE COULD

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UNDERSTAND US INTEREST IN MAKING POSITION CLEAR, AND
WOULD SEE TO IT THAT AIDE MEMOIRE IS PROPERLY HANDLED BY
THE SECRETARIAT.

4. (COMMENT: EVEN WITH THIS FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS,
ENTIRE MEETING WAS VERY OPEN AND CORDIAL.)

5. FOLLOWING LUNCHEON WITH DG, MARKS RETURNED TO PERM
DEL FOR MEETING WITH ADG MAKAGIANSAR. MARKS COVERED THE
SAME GROUND CONCERNING THE US MEDIA'S POSITION ON THE
DRAFT DECLARATION, AND WENT ON TO UNESCO'S PROJECT
SUGGESTIONS FOR WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE FUNDING,
WHICH HAD BEEN SOLICITED FROM UNESCO SIX MONTHS EARLIER
BUT NOT YET RECEIVED. MAKAGIANSAR APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY
FOR DELAY, AND HANDED MARKS A LIST OF PROJECT
SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN COMPILED BY PIERRE NAVAUX,
COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR, WHO ALSO ATTENDED MEETING.
MARKS QUICKLY REVIEWED LIST (WHICH WILL BE AIRPOUCHED)
AND NOTED SEVERAL PROJECTS WHICH HE BELIEVED COULD BE
APPROVED AND FUNDED EVEN BEFORE THE 20TH GEN CONF. ONE
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OF THESE PERTAINS TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTE IN KUALA
LUMPUR WHICH MARKS WILL VISIT WHILE ATTENDING, AS AN
OBSERVER, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON
COMMUNICATION POLICIES IN ASIA AND OCEANIA (JUNE 19-28).
(COMMENT: THIS MEETING TOO WAS VERY FRIENDLY.)
TORRES

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